The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE !
EDUCATE !
ORGANIZE !

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EMPLOYERS DEVELOP BOLSHEVIK SPIRIT

Washington, Feb. 8.—In answer to a request for "literature or articles to combat bolshevism among workingmen," A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison made this reply:

"The only literature or articles issued from this office is in advocacy of the principles of trade unionism.

"I believe that the principal cause for social unrest in our country is the attitude of conscienceless greed as represented by certain large employers of labor who refuse a living wage, insist on long hours and deny their employes the right to join a lawful organization in an effort to improve their working conditions.

"Nothing can develop a mob spirit in this country quicker than the anti-union attitude of the steel trust, for instance. This corporation, through its control of small municipalities in western Pennsylvania, has made free assemblage impossible in these communities by closing every hall to their workers. The same principle is applied by the steel trust on the Minnesota iron ore range, in the northwest lumber industry, and other employers of labor who seem to be guided in social questions by the attitude of so-called 'big business.'

"As force begets force the mob spirit of the employer is met by the mob spirit of the employe. The development of this spirit is logical when it is considered that because these workers are not permitted to act collectively through trade unions they possess no knowledge of the orderly development or the value of public opinion as a remedy for wrongs. This public opinion can only be developed through organization, agitation and education, which the American Federation of Labor so insistently calls for."

UP TO OLD TRICKS.

New York, Feb. 8.—The national liberal immigration league has issued a statement against the proposed stoppage of immigration for a period of four years. The league ignores industrial conditions in this country and declares that it "would be wiser to wait until we have a problem before we attempt to solve it."

This league opposed the passage of the present Burnett immigration restriction law in 1915. At that time President Gompers made public a series of sensational documents which showed that the league was financed by large employers of labor, and steamship companies.

The list included the Pittsburg Coal company, Susquehanna Coal company, Carnegie corporation, Lackawanna Steel company, Jones & Laughlin Steel company, Berwind-White Coal Mining company, Rogers-Brown Iron company, and other large employers.

Among the documents was a cable to the Hamburg steamship line, Hamburg, Germany, in which officers of the league state that they owe $7,000 in salaries, rent, printing, etc., and that "unless we pay immediately we will be sued and put in bankruptcy with disagreeable consequences for all concerned."

In urging large employers to contribute regularly to the support of the league, officers state that "we have to send appeals and communications to some 15,000 influential persons, most of them clergymen."

It was also stated that it is necessary to send to Washington a number of delegations composed of members of various nationalities. The league gives this hint on how delegates were chosen for these junkets:

"But the delegates were not really chosen by bodies of their own nationalities."

Since President Gompers' expose the league has kept out of public print up to the present time.

MORE WIRE MEN PROTEST.

San Francisco, Feb. 8.—Bitter protests against the anti-union policy of Postmaster General Burleson marked a recent meeting of organized commercial telegraphers in this city. The postal chief was called upon to respect the constitutional rights of these citizens and reinstate several hundred employes who have been victimized because of their trade union membership.

The recent wage award of the postmaster general is declared to be "wholly inadequate, insufficient and out of all proportion to the increased cost of living," and that in many cases it has resulted in an actual reduction of wages.

The protest has been indorsed by the local labor council.

PROFITS IN INSURANCE.

Olympia, Wash., Feb. 8.—State Insurance Commissioner Fishback says that every dollar of fire insurance in this state costs the purchaser approximately $2. He shows that in 1917 the old-line insurance companies collected in Washington the sum of $5,840,000 and repaid for losses but $2,619,000. Last summer the companies attempted to enforce a 10 per cent increase. This was resisted by the commissioner, who now asks for power to regulate rates. No legislator has yet advocated state insurance as everyone acquainted with conditions realizes the fight the insurance commissioner will start when he tries to even secure power to regulate.

BAKERS' UNION ACTIVE.

Duluth, Minn., Feb. 8.—The two largest baking concerns in this city have signed the new wage scale of the Bakers' union. When agreements expire next May the schedule will be enforced in other plants. The contract calls for a six-day week and a nine-hour day. Foremen's rates are $35 a week; oven men and dough mixers, $30; bench men, $28; second bench men, $22; extra workers or jobbers, $5 a day; helpers, $18 a week. Time and one-half will be paid for overtime, and all general holidays will be observed.

DRUG CLERKS ADVANCE.

Wheeling, W. Va., Feb. 8.—Druggists and drug clerks affiliated with the Retail Clerks' International Protective association have secured a new wage agreement with drug store proprietors. The new rates are $40 a week to registered pharmacists, $32 to experienced pharmacists and $30 to junior prescription clerks. Sixty hours shall constitute a week's work.

NO CUT IN SHOE PRICES.

New York, Feb. 8.—President McElwain of the National Boot and Shoe Manufacturers' association, predicts no lowering of shoe prices within the next six months. He says they may possibly go higher.

Mr. McElwain described the shoe industry as being in "healthy shape."

UNION TELEPHONE GIRL QUITS FEDERAL BOARD

Boston, Feb. 8.—Miss Julia S. O'Connor of this city has forwarded to Postmaster General Burleson her resignation as a member of the committee appointed by him to investigate wages and working conditions of employes of telephone and telegraph companies.

Miss O'Connor is president of the telephone operators' division of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and in her letter to the postal chief she hits straight from the shoulder in regulation trade union fashion. She informs Mr. Burleson that to retain membership on his committee "would amount to a serious betrayal of the rights and interests of my fellow workers, whom you charged me to represent." She says the committee meetings have been infrequent, it has no avowed policy, its one consistency "has been hostility to the organized telephone and telegraph workers," and that its refusal to avail itself of the information, advice and assistance of the organized workers has reduced it to a condition of impotency.

The postoffice department is charged with repudiating agreements and discrimination is employed that is "unparalleled under private control," while low wages are referred to as a "disgraceful exploitation" that should "challenge the concern and attention of all persons interested in American standards of life."

Because the postoffice department has not disavowed discrimination and a denial of rights supposed to be enjoyed by citizens employed by the government, "the odium of this state of affairs," she says, "must rest upon the postoffice department."

"No statement on the telephone situation would be honest or complete," she continues, "if it failed to draw the attention of the postoffice department to the widespread discontent and unrest that exists among the telephone workers. The postmaster general cannot be unaware of this dissatisfaction, since it has expressed itself upon numerous occasions in strikes and threats to strike. The situation is no less acute among the unorganized workers, save that they lack the voice and means of expression which organization brings."

LABOR AGENTS HOWL.

Washington, Feb. 8.—Private labor agents and employment bureaus throughout the country are trying to put the United States employment service out of business by having congress refuse to appropriate the necessary maintenance funds. The government has dealt a hard blow to this meanest of labor exploitation by its no-profit system of supplying labor.

The methods employed by the agents is shown by a circular issued throughout New York state by General Secretary Daly of the associated manufacturers and merchants of the state of New York.

Daly acknowledges that his executive committee and board of directors have not passed on the question, and then declares that "there is a very general impression that the United States employment service should not be continued after the war necessity ceases." He says the service has been a failure, that to continue it would be for the purpose of furnishing jobs to organized labor's business agents and "social welfare folks," and that business men should urge their senators and congressmen to vote against any appropriation.

New York State Director Kirchwey of the employment service has protested to the president of the manufacturers' association. He says it is obvious why the private agents oppose the service.

BIG STEEL PROFITS.

New York, Feb. 8.—The financial editor of the New York World analyzes the last report of the steel trust, which has reduced dividends.

It is stated that the trust was earning at the rate of nearly $1,000,000 a day during the last quarter, of which the greater part was set aside for government taxes.

"Under normal conditions," it is stated, "such earnings would be regarded as phenomenal. The steel corporation, during the entire year, set aside about 53 per cent of earnings for corporation and excess profits taxes. If the taxes are cut in the pending revenue bill, as is generally expected, the corporation would still have a sizeable fund for the payment of dividends, and perhaps even extras, without showing earnings greater than in the last quarter of 1918 before the allowance for taxes.

"It appears to be plain that the steel industry was earning in the last quarter at a rate higher than in any but the most favorable prewar times."

THIS BOSS IS REAL MAD.

Mount Vernon, N. Y., Feb. 8.—Dress workers affiliated with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union are demanding a 44-hour week but they wont get very far with the Matilda Waist company if the manager carries out his threat. He has given notice that he will take a hatchet and smash all the machines before he will deal with the union.

The unionists don't seem worried over this sabotage threat. They laugh at the irate boss who is assured that others have made similar statements, but failed to "make good."

A representative of the union says the girls are paid 35 to 40 cents for a dress or suit that is sold for $30.

REINSTATE EMPLOYE.

Washington, Feb. 8.—The national war labor board has ruled that employes of the Western Drop Forge company, Marion, Ind., shall be paid a 10 per cent wage increase, dating from September and October last, according to the time the demands were filed. The board says one employe was discharged without cause and recommends that he be reinstated in his former position with full pay for time lost minus such money earned by him during the period of his discharge.

MISERABLE "LEGAL" WAGE.

Salt Lake City, Utah, Feb. 8.—"The present women's minimum wage law permitting them to work for 75 cents a day is totally inadequate," says the Utah Labor News. "It must be raised. The cost of living today is 65 per cent more than it was two years ago."

RAISE WAGES 10 PER CENT.

Washington, Feb. 10.—Members of Federal labor union No. 16,104, employed by the Emerson-Brantingham company, Batavia, Ill., have been awarded 7½ and 10 per cent wage increases. The latter figure applies where workers receive less than 35 cents an hour.

FICKERT "WHITE WASH" EXPECTED, SAYS EDITOR

San Francisco, Feb. 8.—The San Francisco Call assumes an "I-told-you-so" attitude on the grand jury exoneration of District Attorney Fickert, who was charged with improper conduct in the Mooney trial by Director General Densmore of the United States employment service.

"The grand jury," says the Call, "has 'vindicated' Fickert again. Nobody who knew anything about the grand jury expected anything else. The evidence against Fickert in the Densmore report was, to put it mildly, considerably stronger than any of the evidence Fickert introduced against the defendants in the bomb cases, but that made no difference. The grand jury might have censured the district attorney had he gone before it, and made a full confession of everything that has ever been charged against him, but one cannot be sure of that. Possibly it would have contented itself with reproaching him gently for being morbidly conscientious.

"Two different government investigations had led to the conclusion that the bomb case convictions were not legitimately obtained. The trial judge in the Mooney case had been convinced of the same thing. President Wilson had been convinced, as his repeated—and fruitless—appeal to Governor Stephens showed. Every impartial investigator (one might almost say every investigator who looked carefully into the case without the bias of local interests) has reached the same conclusion. The grand jury's members acted as their inclinations, their associations, their attitude toward the Mooney case led them to. They wanted to white wash Fickert. And they did."

HAS STRIKE "SOLUTION."

New York, Feb. 8.—Mr. Harry Gordon announces that the Dress and Waist Manufacturers' association has a solution for the strike of 35,000 workers being waged by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union.

Mr. Gordon said the manufacturers will employ workers who have no union connection and of a type "different from our present class of workers."

There are enough workers, unemployed in this city, due to the abandonment of government work, he said, to supplant the strikers, "women and men who do not submit to the bolshevistic doctrines which the strikers drink in so readily."

"The new class of help which the manufacturers intend to employ," continues Mr. Gordon, "will be kept permanently. The workers will be carefully selected from the army of unemployed which is at present marching through the streets in this and other cities, and our permanent solution of the great difficulty—the class of help—will have been solved."

Mr. Gordon, it might be stated, is not a manufacturer and knows nothing of the garment industry. He is a hired man—a lawyer. The "bolshevistic doctrines" which he refers to are a demand for the 44-hour work week and a living wage. These demands have been indorsed by A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison in a letter to President Schlesinger of the International union congratulating the trade unionists on their splendid fight for better conditions.

PROBLEMS AHEAD.

Washington, Feb. 8.—The United States bureau of education has issued a special bulletin on America's part in the great war, for circulation in the schools of this country. Special emphasis is given to the importance of the problems of reconstruction. The bulletin says:

"The war has made the world safe for democracy only in the sense that the door has been opened, that the path has been cleared of all obstacles set up by autocratic governments. The establishment of just democracy is still to be accomplished.

"What the war has accomplished is to win for the world the opportunity to work out the problems of democracy unhampered by the forces of autocracy. This task is ours and will extend through the years. Patriotic duty to our country and our obligation to the new world demand that we should work at it now and for years to come with redoubled energy, and with unanimity no less complete than that with which we have waged war."

HEADS LABOR BOARD.

Paris, France, Feb. 8.—The commission on international legislation on labor of the peace conference has unanimously elected Samuel Gompers, president of the A. F. of L., as president.

This commission was appointed by the peace conference and has no official connection with the proposed interallied trade union conference which will be attended by President Gompers and four vice presidents of the A. F. of L.

President Gompers' colleague on the peace conference commission is Edward N. Hurley, chairman of the United States shipping board.

SHORTAGE OF U. S. HOMES.

Washington, Feb. 8.—The department of labor states that in normal times the building of about 600,000 homes a year is required to supply the normal growth of the country and replace losses occasioned by fire and other destructive agencies. For the past two years this normal construction has been practically suspended. What housing construction has been accomplished has been mainly to meet war conditions. It is stated that there is a shortage of nearly 1,000,000 homes in America.

TEXTILE MILLS YIELDING.

New York, Feb. 8.—The United Textile Workers' campaign for an eight-hour day is proving successful. In many New England mills the demand is being granted. In several instances mills have been shut down "indefinitely," the managements declare. In a number of mill towns the operatives have carried out their plan of working only eight hours a day. The campaign is being directed by John Golden, president of the United Textile Workers of America.

WANT AWARD ENFORCED.

Adelaide, South Australia, Feb. 8.—A parade of state employes in this city preceded a visit to the office of Premier Peake, who was asked to have the government pay its employes a wage ordered by the state industrial court. The employes charge that they received "the usual unsatisfactory reply."

"CAN'T-STRIKE" LAW FLOUTED IN CANADA

Washington, Feb. 8.—The Canadian law which prohibits strikes and lockout on public utilities until a government commission investigates is being disregarded by workers and employers, reports the bureau of labor statistics in a survey of this legislation, printed in bulletin No. 233. The law has been denounced by organized labor in Canada.

The period covered by the survey is from March 22, 1907, when the act became effective, to December 1, 1918. During this time 222 strikes and lockouts, affecting 100,608 employes and accasioning a time loss of 4,838,467 working days, occurred in industries within the scope of the act. Of these 91.9 per cent of the strikes and lockouts, affecting 79.8 per cent of the employes and occasioning 62.3 per cent of the time loss were illegal.

The report shows that little attempt has been made to impose penalties because of these illegal acts. In all, charges have been laid against nine employes for encouraging illegal strikes, against 11 employes for going on strike illegally, and against three employers for declaring illegal lockouts. In the case of 11 employes the charge was either dismissed or withdrawn, in the case of nine employes the charge was sustained. Charges against two employers were sustained, charges against one employer were dismissed.

The aggregate of fines imposed, exclusive of costs, was $1,690, as against an aggregate of $30,000,000 which would have been incurred if the minimum penalty had been imposed, or of $150,000,000 if the maximum had been imposed. This does not include violations of the provision against inciting to illegal strikes.

The report shows clearly that the restrictive and penal provisions of the act have been disregarded by those against whom they were directed and without any serious attempt being made by the public or by administrative agencies to impose the penalties provided for violation.

"Repeated violation of these provisions," it is stated, "must inevitably reflect upon their enforceability and foster such a disregard for the act as to lessen its usefulness even as a conciliatory measure."

R. R. OFFICIALS SHIRK.

Washington, Feb. 8.—A. F. of L. railway employes' department officials call upon members to give their full support and co-operation to the railroad administration in making government control a success. Railroad shop employes are warned not to be misled by the temptation being offered to evade their obligation of doing an "honest day's work."

"Many reports are reaching this office," it is stated, "which bear conclusive evidence of designs on the part of the railroad officials to discredit government control by every means within their power, even to the extent of encouraging idleness in the shops.

"In many instances it is reported there is a total indifference on the part of the subordinate officials as to the output of work, although for some reason the force of supervisors has been materially increased with fat salaries, all of which will contribute toward the deficit charged against the government operation of the roads and so much prated about by those who formerly managed them so successfully in the interests of a few and succeeded so well in getting out of them 'all the traffic would bear.'"

CLOTH SPONGING HAZARDS.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 8.—The state department of labor has issued a special bulletin on the unhealthful conditions surrounding workmen engaged in the process of sponging and steaming of cloth. One of the hazards is the high temperature and humidity in these shops.

"It has been shown by actual experiments that laboring under conditions in which there is a hot, humid air causes an increase of the body temperature, an increased pulse rate and a loss of moisture of the body which is entirely out of proportion to the work which is being performed.

"Prof. F. C. Lee says that when working in a hot, humid atmosphere the blood vessels of the skin are dilated and overcharged with blood, and the brain and spinal cord, among other organs, are rendered correspondingly anemic. This is sufficient of itself to account largely for the feeling of weariness, indifference and apathy when working in an atmosphere of this kind."

BIG MONEY IN OIL.

New York, Feb. 8.—Oil workers in the California and Texas fields who are demanding wage increases will be interested in the announcement that the Atlantic Refining company, a leader in the Standard Oil group, has a surplus of $45,000,000, as compared with a capital stock of $5,000,000. To reduce dividends from a figure that might alarm the public, Standard Oil companies are issuing more stock to their stockholders. Under this arrangement a dividend of 10 per cent, for instance, does not look as large as a 20 per cent dividend on one-half the amount of stock.

TO STUDY HEALTH IN STORES.

Boston, Feb. 8.—A scientific investigation of the health of mercantile employes throughout the country will be undertaken by the Boston board of trade, representing retail merchants, and the committee on industrial hygiene at the Harvard university.

The plan includes every phase of hygiene in these stores. The information will be compiled and used by the Harvard medical school to train physicians and subordinates in the problems of health administration in retail stores.

WOULD TAX AGENCIES.

Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 8.—A tax on private employment agencies that will drive them out of business is urged by Dr. Joseph T. Ware, state director of the federal employment service.

It is urged that government employment agencies have shown there is no necessity for the private concerns, which are a menace rather than an aid to workers desiring employment.

COMPULSORY TRAINING.

Washington, Feb. 8.—A bill providing for compulsory military training of the youth of the country has been introduced by United States Senator New of Indiana.

HUGE SHIP PROFITS SHOWN BY UNIONIST

Seattle, Feb. 8.—The strike of ship builders against the Macy award, which includes several localities, is not a rejection of abritration or conciliation methods, according to James A. Taylor, president of the metal trades council. He says the ship building unions were given authority by Mr. Piez (shipping board) last month to negotiate separate agreements with ship yards if they desired to do so.

Secretary Swain of the metal trades council has made public these figures on the profits of ship builders:

"In 1917 the government paid the Seattle yards $145 per ton for ships. At this figure the builders were able to pay an increase of $1.75 per man per day. This amounted to $7.50 a ton, or $66,000 per ship of 8,800 tons.

"In July, 1918, the builders were paid $167.50 per ton, and admitted that the cost of construction, covering everything, was $1,000,000 per ship.

"An 8,800-ton ship at $167.50 per ton brought the builder a price amounting to $1,474,000. Taking the admitted cost of construction from this amount there was left a net profit of $474,000. If the rates asked by the metal trades council, amounting to an increase of $66,000 per ship, had been paid, the builders would have had a net profit of $408,000 on last summer's figures.

"It is admitted that the builders at the present time are getting $186 per ton; which for an 8,800-ton ship means a price of $1,636,800. It is further admitted by the builders that the present cost of construction of these ships is $1,350,000. This allows a profit of $286,000. If the full demands of the men were met the builders would still have a net profit of $200,800 per ship at the present time.

"The Skinner and Eddy corporation sold two ships to Japanese interests for the sum of $5,000,000. The admitted cost of each ship was $1,000,000, which gave the firm a net profit on that one deal of $3,000,000."

PURE MILK NECESSARY.

Washington, Feb. 8.—The need for public action to place clean milk within the reach of every family having little children is emphasized in a report on the New Orleans milk situation, issued by the children's bureau, department of labor. It is shown that 70 per cent of the children under 8 years of age who were not breast fed were getting no fresh milk at all to drink. Only 29 of the 413 children from 2 to 7 years old included in the study were drinking as much as three cups of fresh milk a day. Only 63 per cent of the babies under 2 years old, who are not nursed by their mothers, have milk to drink, leaving more than one-third of these little children without fresh milk.

The situation, says the report, gives cause for grave concern because the children are not only being deprived of the best and most nourishing food for normal development, but they are being given injurious substitutes. Of 335 children 7 years old or younger who are not breast fed and are getting no fresh milk to drink, 54 are given tea or coffee in place of it.

Although figures regarding income were not secured, the families are of about the same economic status as those included in the recent Washington study, where more than three-fourths of the families were living on $30 a week or less.

WON'T RE-EMPLOY STRIKERS.

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 8.—The Kansas City Railways company has refused to reinstate striking employes, as recommended by the national war labor board. President Kealy notified the strikers' committee, when they offered to return to work on conditions directed by the national war labor board, that the company could not afford the wage increase and that it "would be a breach of good faith" if he discharged the strikebreakers.

An award was made by the board several weeks ago. The company has fought the case in courts, denying the authority of the board, and is also attempting to raise fares. Joint Chairman Taft and Manly charge the company with being more interested in keeping wages down than in securing fare increases and quote Kealy to this effect. The company's plea before the courts contain so many "fantastic" statements regarding the alleged powers of the national war labor board, that Joint Chairman Taft and Manly declare "it is difficult to be patient with it."

WOMEN CARPENTERS.

Chicago, Feb. 8.—Carpenters can't reconcile themselves to having carpentry taught by women in the manual training schools of this city. The situation is laughable to these unionists, who suggest that practical men be put on the job. Many members of this union are qualifying themselves for these positions and some of them have already passed an examination on the phases that are necessary for teaching.

The men show that if this training is to be a mere fad, then practical experience, of course, is unnecessary, but if it is the intention to develop skilled craftsmen, teachers should be in possession of this experience.

GOVERNOR IS ADVERTISED.

St. Paul, Minn., Feb. 8.—The state federation of labor is giving wide circulation to the labor portion of Governor Burnquist's annual message. One of the executive's recommendations is that the vagrancy laws include "dangerous agitators" who stir up strife and preach doctrines of discontent. The governor also wants trade unions incorporated, is opposed to state controlled workmen's compensation insurance and favors a state constabulary. As far as labor is concerned the message is a model for reaction.

NEW LABOR TEMPLE.

Chicago, Feb. 8.—The Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers' International Alliance has purchased a fine building on Ashland boulevard as headquarters for their organization. The structure is two stories high. The front is of Bedford limestone with granite trimmings, the balance of the building being of brick. The recent Boston convention, in considering the matter, empowered the general executive board to act.

CANDIDATES QUESTIONED.

El Paso, Tex., Feb. 8.—Trade unionists have prepared a list of 16 questions to submit to candidates for municipal offices. The questions include:

"Will you use your influence against the importation of strikebreakers by corporations, during labor difficulties?

"If elected will you agree to assist, work, and vote for the repeal of the anti-picketing ordinance?"

STREET RAILWAY UNION AIDS WOMEN MEMBERS

Chicago, Feb. 8.—Attacks on trade union street car men, because of their attitude on women conductors, is answered by the Union Leader, official journal of Chicago organized surface and elevated street car employes.

This charge is made, says Editor Bland, by "leaders of women's organizations, some of whom should be better informed because of their affiliations, and others who may be excused because of mercenary motives.

"That the Amalgamated association has had women members for more than 16 years may be news to the parlor advocates of women's rights, and that our organization has secured for these women members much better conditions of labor than many of the men members enjoy, may be a revelation to the over-enthusiastic and misguided women leaders who would bring about a reversion to squawdom if they had their way about it."

Editor Bland shows that the membership of division No. 308, this city, is 13 per cent women, who are employed as ticket agents on the elevated railways. Before these women joined the union they worked 12 hours a day for $1.50 and less. Through the union's efforts they now receive $3.65 for eight hours.

Regarding the employment of women conductors, the Union Leader says:

"The Amalgamated association takes the position that operating street cars is not a proper occupation for women. It takes this position because of knowledge gained by practical experience. Street railway work is a menace to the morals and health of women and therefore against the public welfare. Its physical exactions, exposure, irregularity of eating and sleeping time, constant service, night work, impossibility of arranging accommodations to meet natural requirements, and the nervous strain resulting from accidents and dealing with the rowdy element among passengers, endangers potential motherhood and prevents women who become victims of the occupation from sharing the full measure of enjoyment to which their function in life entitles them."

R. R. INVITES SUGGESTIONS.

Washington, Feb. 8.—In a letter to Acting President Jewell of the A. F. of L. railway employes' department Director General of Railroads Hines says he will welcome any suggestion from the shop employes that will tend to the successful and economical management of the railroads under government control.

The letter was in the nature of a record of understandings reached at a conference between the railroad executive and President Jewell and the executives of the railroad shop men's unions.

"It was manifest to you and your associates and to me," writes Mr. Hines, "that there is a disposition in some quarters to claim that the railroads cannot be successfully operated on the basis of present wages and it is equally to the interest of your members and of the railroad administration to demonstrate that this is not the case and that railroad operation on the basis of present wages can and will be efficient and successful.

"I take this opportunity of confirming my statements to you and again expressing my appreciation of your co-operative attitude. I desire also to confirm my statement that we will welcome at all times the suggestions of yourself and associates as to ways for promoting the objects I have mentioned.

"I wish to do all that is in my power to bring about the closest understanding of the mutual necessities of the railroad employes and of the government while it operates the railroads."

TO PRUSSIANIZE IDAHO.

Boise, Idaho, Feb. 8.—The state federation of labor is opposing a bill now pending in the legislature, which, it is declared, would Prussianize the state government. The governor would be empowered to appoint and remove every official and state employe at will. State police officials would have power to enforce all the penal and regulatory laws of the state, and would have power similar to the sheriffs of the counties. The unionists call attention to this attempt to establish a state constabulary.

Advocates of the bill say it will "concentrate the powers of the governor." To this claim the unionists agree. "In fact," say the unionists, "it provides for a concentration of power never before witnessed in any government on earth."

In the case of the federal government the president can appoint with the approval of the senate, but the Idaho scheme makes the governor all powerful.

BOOKBINDERS GAIN.

Salt Lake City, Utah, Feb. 8.—Organized bookbinders have increased wages to $31.50 for journeymen and $35 for foremen.

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 8.—The Bookbinders' union has established a new wage scale. Women workers in this industry have recently organized and they are included in the advance.

Elgin, Ill., Feb. 8.—The Bookbinders' union is just one year old and has proved the value of organization by raising wages 10 per cent and improving working conditions.

COPPER MEN AGREE.

Washington, Feb. 8.—The department of labor announces that as a result of conferences between officials of the department and delegates representing the workers in the copper industry of Montana, Utah and Arizona "the men have appointed a permanent joint conference committee, which is empowered to confer with the managers of the industry with a view to establishing a working agreement for the delicate period of readjustment on a peace basis."

7-HOUR DAY URGED

Tacoma, Wash., Feb. 8.—At a conference representing the printing crafts of the northwest it was urged that the seven-hour day be made the basis of future contracts, and that all crafts make uniform contracts.

A special scale conference will be held in Portland next April when the proposed contracts of the different unions will be passed upon in an endeavor to secure uniformity for the Pacific coast.

ENGINEERS WANT MORE.

Fort Worth, Tex., Feb. 8.—Hoisting and portable engineers have asked that wages be increased from 75 to 87½ cents an hour.

8 HOURS FOR WOMEN FAVORED IN ILLINOIS

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 8.—The Illinois industrial survey, created by the last general assembly, has recommended an eight-hour day and a 48-hour week for women workers in this state. This recommendation is signed by Dr. James B. Herrick, chairman, Dr. George W. Webster, Dr. Soloman Strause, Elizabeth Maloney, of the Waitresses' union, and Agnes Nestor, of the Glove Workers' union.

A minority report is submitted by the two representatives of the employing interests.

The majority report declares that the tendency toward shorter hours is upheld and justified by the opinion and experience of industrial physicians in the industrial field.

Seasonable industries working long hours, it is stated, show a marked drop in production early in the busy season, while short hour firms in the same field show that production is maintained or increased throughout the busy season.

A group of 41 physicians of wide experience in industrial work reported on working hours and their effect on health of the worker. Of 35 physicians replying to the question, "What in your opinion is the best length for the working day for women in industry?" 26 stated eight hours and three said fewer than these.

Other opinions of these physicians were:

"There is a definite bad effect of long hours on health and a beneficial effect observed where long hours have been shortened.

"The long day has been harmful effect on maternal functions, particularly in certain types of occupation.

"Long hours tend to decrease the number of industrial accidents, although a distribution of these through the day shows no clear connection with increased fatigue."

TO REDUCE COPPER WAGES.

New York, Feb. 8.—In the financial columns of a local newspaper it is stated that the sliding scale as applied to the wages of copper miners, which was abandoned as a war measure when the price of copper was fixed by government decree, is to be installed throughout western mining regions. The present wage, based on a price of 26 to 28 cents a pound, means an approximate wage of $5.50 a day in the Butte (Mont.) region. If copper drops to 20 cents a pound, it is predicted the wage will be cut $1 a day. A "representative of one of the most important copper producing companies" was quoted as saying that labor would accept this reduction as it still provides a living wage.

This representative seems ignorant of a recent statement by the national industrial conference board, representing 17 employers' associations, that the cost of living has jumped 65 to 70 per cent during the war. On the basis of 70 per cent increase in the cost of living, the purchasing power of a miner's $4.50 wage, compared with before-the-war prices, would be $2.50 a day.

OIL WORKERS UNITING.

Fort Worth, Tex., Feb. 8.—Officers of the International Association of Oil Field, Gas Well and Refinery Workers of America whose headquarters are in this city, are enthusiastic over the manner in which their movement is growing. They declare that "it is making faster strides in the matter of securing new members than any international organization in the country."

This association was chartered by the A. F. of L. last June. The first convention was held in El Paso, Texas, last November.

Officers report that calls for organizers are being received almost daily, from fields in all sections of the country where oil is found and that this youngest of international unions will soon be a giant in strength.

All men working in and about oil fields and refineries are eligible to membership, and the deplorable conditions in many fields make the workers anxious to receive the protection that organization affords.

HOURS REDUCED; NOT WAGES

Washington, Feb. 8.—Acting as umpire for the national war labor board in the case of the International Paper company versus its employes, John Lind, ex-governor of Minnesota, rules that a previous award means an eight-hour day for inside workers and nine hours for outside workers with no wage reductions.

The umpire calls attention to the refusal of the national war labor board to recognize bonuses "or other forms of gratuities" as constituting part of the minimum wage scale that has been adopted.

"Any bonus or gratuity paid by the International Paper company or by any other mill shall be wholly disregarded in the computation of the arrears of wages accruing to employes under the award," rules the umpire.

DISCUSS CONVICT LABOR.

New York, Feb. 8.—The only way to reform the county jail is to abolish it and substitute the state farm on the employment compensation system for the benefit of the state, said Edwin M. Abbott, general secretary of the American institute of criminal law and criminology at the annual conference of the national committee on prisons and prison labor.

"The articles made by prison labor should not be stamped prison made," said Mr. Abbott, "but at the same time they should not be thrown upon open markets. They [illegible] all be utilized in state institutions."

HAPPY FEDERAL JUDGE.

Los Angeles, Cal., Feb. 8.—According to a local newspaper Federal Judge Bledsoe made this comment when he learned that congress had raised the salaries of federal judges $1,500 a year:

"I haven't any troubles that money will not cure."

Judge Bledsoe recently issued an injunction against street car men who were asking for a living wage.

CARPENTERS WANT MORE.

Waco, Tex., Feb. 8.—Organized carpenters have prepared a new wage scale, to become effective March 1. Journeymen rates are advanced to 85 cents an hour; apprentices, first year, 45 cents an hour; second year, 50 cents; third year, 55 cents, and fourth year, 65 cents.

GIRLS FORM UNION.

Hartford, Conn., Feb. 8.—About 150 telephone operators have organized despite opposition of company officials.

FORCED ARBITRATION FAILS IN AUSTRALIA

Washington, Feb. 8.—Compulsory arbitration and wages by law, the boasted panacea for strikes, is cuffed and kicked by Minister of Labor Beeby, of New South Wales, now in this country, who is quoted as follows in the United States Employment Service Bulletin:

"The fixing of wages by the government through the courts is falling into disrepute. As for arbitration, we seem to be going back to the good old strike days."

Sydney, New South Wales, Feb. 8.—Minister of Labor Beeby, who is now in America, is the author of an arbitration act which is referred to as follows by the Australian Worker:

"Some time ago, when Beeby's state arbitration act became law, the miners of New South Wales were given the option of deciding or declining to come under the provisions of the act. From the very start it was well known that the miners would have nothing to do with Beeby's act. All the same, this did not deter Beeby from using every means in his power to induce them to accept his proposal. Finally, to settle the whole matter the Coal and Shale Federation ordered a ballot of its members, with the result that the miners showed themselves overwhelmingly opposed to Beeby's measure."

Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, Feb. 8.—At the annual convention of the Queensland employers' federation President Maxwell said that "arbitration courts have not brought us any nearer to the industrial millenium."

As a remedy for this condition the speaker favored making the arbitration act so drastic that it would "compel" employers and employed to accept awards.

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, Feb. 8.—Writing in Liberty and Progress, a magazine representing employing interests, a correspondent says:

"So far as judicial decision is concerned, the commonwealth arbitration system has practically broken down. This might be remediable. But, taken in conjunction with the long, ever persistent and increasing record of strikes, strifes and disturbances, the two things point unerringly to the necessity of a complete overhaul and almost complete reconstruction of the whole system."

The writer suggests that a federal arbitration court should be limited to the voluntary action on which the national war labor board of the United States is based.

AMEND COMPENSATION LAW.

Newark, N. J., Feb. 8.—Conferences between organized labor and organized employers in this state have resulted in an agreement that both parties shall go before the state legislature and ask that the compensation law be amended as follows:

When an employe is injured his benefits shall be increased from 50 per cent of his wages to 66 2-3 per cent; that the maximum and minimum be increased from $5 and $10 a week to $6 and $12 a week; that the waiting time before benefits can be paid shall be reduced from 14 days to 10 days; that the time for medical attendance be increased from 14 to 28 days, and that the compensation bureau be permitted to grant a money allowance up to $200 for medical attendance and surgical appliances.

This agreement does not represent the demands of the trade unionists, but the workers accepted it as a compromise, and both parties to the agreement are hopeful that the legislature will accept their viewpoint.

NEW LABOR "SOLUTION."

New York, Feb. 8.—Sir Charles Carrick Allom, English manufacturer, contributes to the gayety of nations by his solution of the labor problem, according to an interview printed in a local newspaper.

Sir Charles wants labor graded in order to produce "satisfactory results." He says "trade union officials have always been afraid to let the workingmen know too much for fear of losing their own comfortable jobs."

Sir Charles also says "democracy has never been a great judge of a leader," and that "the sooner the workingman knows that his leadership is rotten, his premises wrong, his ideals debased, his personal benefit from them minute and his waste of opportunity the greatest of any organization in the world, he will begin to want a change."

Then Sir Charles retired to his apartment in one of New York's most lavish hotels.

STEREOTYPERS GAIN.

Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 8.—Stereotypers employed on local newspapers have secured a two-year wage agreement that raises rates for night work to $37 a week and for day work to $35.

New York, Feb. 8.—Stereotypers' union No. 1 has secured the following wage increases:

Journeymen, $5.83⅓ for day or night work; Saturday night, $6.33⅓; overtime, time and one-half. Former rates were $5.33⅓ for day or night work and $5.83⅓ for Saturday night.

CAN'T MINE ITS COAL.

Harrisburg, Pa., Feb. 8.—A state normal school cannot engage in the mining of coal on its own lands, according to an opinion rendered by Deputy Attorney General Myers.

The official held that there is no act of the state assembly that permits this action, although the state "can engage in any business or do anything not expressly forbidden or prohibited by the constitution."

TEAMSTERS REDUCE HOURS.

San Francisco, Feb. 8.—Differences between organized teamsters and the Draymen's association have been adjusted by the adoption of the nine-hour day. The men were working nine and one-half hours and wanted the time reduced one hour. Both sides compromised.

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